

# December 2011/January 2012 Monthly Letter to Parents

## Calendar of Events for December & January:

. 12/1	School Picture Make-up Day
. 12/2	NO SSC Meeting
.12/2	PTA/FOT Meeting – 8:15 a.m.-auditorium
.12/3 (Saturday)	9 a.m.-Noon-Local District 3 Magnet and Choices Faire at Cochran Middle School 4066 W. 17 <sup>th</sup> St., Los Angeles, 90019
.12/5-12/9	Book Fair by PTA
.12/8	Family Night- 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
.12/8	Winter Concert with Kevin Mason-6:00 p.m.-6:50 p.m.
.12/8	ELAC Meeting on Choices/Magnet Programs Presented by Jodee Hoffman, Magnet Program Coordinator at Wonderland ES-Open to all parents
.12/5-12/9	Parent Conferences: 12/5, 12/7, 12/8, 12/9 (12:35pm Dismissal for all students)
.12/6, 12/13	Early Dismissal Tuesdays-1:30pm Dismissal
.12/16	Minimum Day-Dismissal 12:35 p.m.
	Report Cards sent home today
.12/19-1/6/2012	Winter Recess ( <b>NO SCHOOL</b> )

## Coming in January:

.01/9/12	School Resumes
.01/10, 1/17, 1/24	Early Dismissal - 1:30 p.m. Dismissal for All Grades
.01/13	7 a.m. School Site Council meeting (Agenda: Writing SPSA (School Plan for Student Achievement) & Report on Literacy Night on 2/1/12) 8:15a.m. FOT/PTA Meeting – Auditorium
.01/16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – School Holiday
.01/19	ELAC Meeting – Rm. 33 – Open to All Parents-Agenda: GATE Program

## Coming in February:

.02/03 – 7:15a.m. SSC Mtg. 8:15a.m. PTA/FOT Mtg.
.02/9 – 8:10a.m. ELAC Mtg.-Agenda: Attendance
.02/20 – President's Day (School Holiday)

## Other Important Dates/Holidays:

. 03/27– Open House
.03/28-Prospective Kdgtn. Parent Orientation Meeting/Tour #2- 9:00 a.m. in the library
. 04/02 – 04/06 - Spring Break ( <b>NO SCHOOL</b> )
. 05/7 – 05/25 - California Standards Test (CST)
. 05/28 - Memorial Day ( <b>NO SCHOOL</b> )
. 06/14 – Science Fair
. 06/21– 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Luncheon
. 06/22– 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Culmination
. 06/22– Last Day of the School Year for Students
.08/14-First Day of School for 2012-2013 School Year- ( <i>The LAUSD School Board rejected a delay of the Early Start Calendar for the next school year. Under the District-wide Early Start Instructional Calendar, the first day of instruction for students will be August 14, 2012 and the last day of instruction will be June 4, 2013. It is critical to know that the 2012-2013 school year will begin three weeks earlier.</i> )

\***REMINDER:** Please mark your calendar and make the necessary child care arrangements.

\***REMINDER:** Please do not make family travel plans while school is in session.

## **Dear Parents,**

The holidays are a special time for experiencing joy, family, sharing, renewing and caring. They are also a time for reliving those special memories and histories of our family and culture. In our community, many of you will be involved in celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas. These holidays are a time to stimulate our children with beautiful stories, songs, and activities of the season. Most of all, the holidays are a time to immerse our children in love, the Menorah candles and Christmas lights symbolize an even more important light—the light of love for family and friends.

We realize that with the approach of the holiday season, there is a great deal of excitement among students. We will be reminding them that school work comes first and that we must continue to maintain the highest level of behavioral standards. I am asking you, the parents, to join us in helping to stress these same values. Our community is truly a special place where education, family and culture are highly valued, and we have a lot more in common than we care to admit.

Learning and development for our children do not end here at school and during the holiday season. So, I ask you to strongly consider involving your family in as many educational and developmental experiences as possible during the winter recess.

So, as we enter the month of December with its short days and clear, crisp weather, I ask that our Third Street School families take a few moments to look both forward and back. As we look back at the year 2010, we can reflect upon a year of hard work, challenges, and accomplishments - a year of learning and growing as a school community. Let us recognize the gifts of good teachers and loving parents who work every day to help our students develop academically and as individuals. Please join me in wishing joy, peace, and health to our Third Street School families, faculty, and staff as we look forward to the promise of a new year.

### **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:**

On January 16, 2012, we will observe the birthday of an American leader who devoted his individual talent to the advancement of society. Martin Luther King, Jr. is remembered for championing the causes of the disadvantaged. However, I believe Dr. King influenced the more prosperous members just as significantly. His crusade was to inform the “strong” links that their individual strength meant little if other links were close to collapsing. “Injustice anywhere is a threat of justice everywhere.” These words reflect Dr. King’s belief in the “chain” of society. Thus, he believed that a person’s ultimate achievement was to contribute to one’s community, to needs other than one’s own. “An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”

### **Friends of Third:**

Welcome back from Thanksgiving! We hope you had a great holiday. Friends of Third has much to be thankful for, not the least of which has been your ongoing support of our **Annual Giving Campaign**. While we are more than half way towards our Annual Giving goal, we still have a ways to go, so please consider giving if you haven’t already done so. If you are looking for a year-end tax break, remember that **100% of donations to Friends of Third is deductible off your taxes**. If you prefer, you can make your donation in installments.

[WWW.FRIENDSOFTHIRD.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFTHIRD.ORG). A very big THANK YOU to everyone who has taken the initiative and already made their donation.

Don’t forget this Friday, **December 2 at Wilshire Country Club is the Third Street Gala**, a fun dinner, dance and auction complete with mariachis, margaritas and plenty of merriment for school parents and guests. Tickets are still available online and at the door. [GALA.FRIENDSOFTHIRD.ORG](http://GALA.FRIENDSOFTHIRD.ORG). Special thanks to HJ Paik, Mike August, Mandy Tankerson, Alan Bernstein, Alice Fries, and Charlotte Simon for all their work to make the Gala a success.

**Holiday Shop & Help Our School:** If you’re planning to make any purchases of personalized cards (think holidays and thank you notes), or anything through **Amazon.com** (gifts, electronics, clothes, homewares, books, music, etc.), please go to our [www.friendsofthird.org](http://www.friendsofthird.org) website first and click on the links for Tiny Prints and Amazon. At no additional cost to you, FOT gets a portion of every purchase you make, which has added up to several thousand dollars each year! And just by doing what you were doing anyway!

For the latest Third Street information, blogs, calendars, and more, go to [www.friendsofthird.org](http://www.friendsofthird.org). The next Friends of Third/PTA meeting is on Friday, November 2 after drop off. Have a great month, Happy Holidays and **THINK ANNUAL GIVING!!**

Jennifer Rissier & Roy Forbes  
Co-Presidents, Friends of Third

### **Food for Thought:**

*The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.*

The staff and I wish you all enjoyable winter holidays and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Suzie Oh, Principal [DrSuzieOh@gmail.com](mailto:DrSuzieOh@gmail.com)